

WIDDOWSON, T. W. : Special or Dental Anatomy and Physiology (7th edition, 1946).

DERMATOLOGY

JENKINS, W. D. : Dermatoses Among Gas and Tar Workers (1948).

Modern Trends in Dermatology, 1 (1948).

SAVILL, A. : The Hair and Scalp (3rd edition, 1947).

SCHWARTZ, L., AND OTHERS : Occupational Diseases of the Skin (2nd edition, 1947).

WIENER, K. : Skin Manifestations of Internal Disorders (Dermadromes) (1947).

THERAPEUTICS

BURN, J. H. : The Background of Therapeutics (1948).

COLSON, J. H. C. : The Rehabilitation of the Injured, 2 vols. (1945-1947).

DAVIDSON, L. S. P., AND ANDERSON, I. A. : A Textbook of Dietetics (2nd edition, 1947).

Fiat Review of German Science, 1939-1946 : Radiology (1947).

KOLMER, J. A. : Penicillin Therapy (2nd edition, 1947).

SPIES, T. D. : Rehabilitation Through Better Nutrition (1947).

REVIEWS

AIDS TO EMBRYOLOGY. By J. S. Baxter, M.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.S.I. Fourth Edition. Pp. viii + 181. 45 illustrations. London : Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1948. 5s.

It is twenty years since this book first appeared, and ten since the third edition, under the editorship of R. H. Hunter, its original author. An attempt has been made in the present edition to incorporate the many advances in our knowledge of human embryology which have been made during the past decade, and the text has been practically completely rewritten. The original lay-out and most of the illustrations, either in their original or in modified form, have been retained, and some new illustrations have been added. The new author has succeeded remarkably well in his attempt, and he has kept the book, which gives an account of the main developmental changes which occur during gestation, a very readable one. It is strange, however, to find no direct mention of organisers, or of inductive phenomena in general. Nor is there mention of the theoretical importance of such concepts which suggest reasons for the occurrence in the ontogeny of a human embryo of the transient embryonic structures, such as the primitive streak, notochord, pro- and meso-nephroi, pharyngeal clefts, etc. Attention is called to the functional activity of the mesonephros in lower mammals until such time as the metanephros is able to function. It might have been added that the degree of activity of the mammalian mesonephros is in some measure related to the types of placentation found in the species concerned. There is occasional unevenness of stressing which could easily mislead the student. The paragraph on the myelination of the tracts in the C.N.S. may be used as an illustration. The paediatrician and the child psychologist, as well as the student, is interested in the times of myelination of the main nerve tracts in the brain and spinal cord, if indeed this process accompanies the acquisition of function. What exactly is meant by "aberrant pyramidal fibres," and why are they singled out along with the obscure olivo-spinal tract, whose exact origin and termination are unknown, for especial mention, when such important tracts as the main cortico-spinal and the spino-cerebellar tracts are omitted? The chapter on the coelomic cavities might also be mentioned as an example. It is much too short,

even for a book of this nature, although this is partially compensated by the sections on the individual viscera.

The index has been shortened, but seemingly not to any consistent plan. Further systematisation of the index would render it more useful and still keep it within the limits set by the prevailing paper shortage. The eye, for example, could have been treated as the other organs are, and had all its abnormalities listed under an inclusive title. Congenital cystic eye appears in the index, but has been omitted from the text. The cranial nerves could well have been treated collectively, and that important peripheral nerve, the phrenic, included in the space thus provided. The addition of a very short bibliography, giving the sources of the works quoted in the text, would have been of great value to the senior student, and should not occupy much space. It is only irritating to be told that *Flexner and Gellhorn (1942), using radioactive sodium and heavy water, have shown that, in the guinea-pig at least, there is constant exchange of these substances between the maternal circulation and the amniotic fluid, and then to be unable to look up the relevant paper for want of the exact reference. In the main, however, the book fulfils its primary object, and should prove its worth as an *aide memoire* to the student preparing for the Second Professional Examination in Medicine.

W. R. M. M.

*FLEXNER, L. B., AND GELLHORN, A.: *Anat. Rec.*, 82, 411-412; 1942.

HANDBOOK OF MEDICINE FOR FINAL-YEAR STUDENTS. By G. F. Walker, M.D., M.R.C.P. Fourth Edition. Pp. 299. Sylviro Publications Ltd. 1948. 25s.

A fourth edition of this interesting and extremely useful Handbook of Medicine has been published. It was never intended to be another textbook or synopsis of medicine, but rather to aid the senior student and house physician in the difficult art of the "clinical approach" to bedside work. The author concentrates upon essential and everyday things and wisely omits rare and controversial matter. This new edition is up to date and the fundamental character of the book is carefully preserved. It is packed with useful and interesting information, written in a novel and racy style, and altogether is a well-produced *vade-mecum* which senior students, and, indeed, all clinicians, will enjoy and derive benefit from reading. It extends a friendly atmosphere from beginning to end, and one gets the impression all through of being led by the hand of a curiously kind, wise, and well-informed clinical teacher.

J. C. D.

EMERGENCIES IN MEDICAL PRACTICE. By C. A. Birch, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. 468. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1948. 25s.

This book, compiled by eighteen contributors and edited by C. Allan Birch, might well be called a Handbook of Practical Medicine. Its subject matter covers a wide field, and a wealth of information is contained in its 446 pages. The reader will find in it not only precise details on the management of acute medical cases, but also practical advice on medico-legal questions and on medical problems peculiar to sea and air travel. Clinical conditions are clearly described, and differential diagnosis forms a considerable part of the text. For example, the chapter on cardiovascular diseases gives an account of the various types of syncope, and includes a table on the differential diagnosis of the tachycardias. The reader will also find details of the technique of medical operations, and even advice on the baptism of children. A brief account is given of streptomycin and the new anti-coagulants.

This book is well worth reading and re-reading. Those new to medical practice will find it invaluable as a guide to the problems they will meet, and experienced practitioners will also appreciate its practical value.

E. F.

DISEASES OF THE NOSE, THROAT, AND EAR. Fourth Edition. A Handbook for Students and Practitioners.

This is a popular book, probably because of its clear, direct teaching, backed with the authority of the Edinburgh Medical School, and its shortness. The latest edition has kept these features. Brief mention of aviation trauma to the nasal sinuses and the middle-ear, a few lines on the